

THE
AMERICAN
BEE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY W. F. CLARKE.

“*The greatest enemy of the Bee, is the ignorance of man,*” DZIERZON.

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communications to New York." This is Mr. King's peculiar way of announcing the fact that his *Bee-Keepers' Magazine*, which was ushered into being at Chicago rather more than a year ago amid such a flourish of trumpets, and has grown "small by degrees and beautifully less," has no longer any abiding place in Chicago. It never had except in name and profession. It never was a *bona fide* Chicago institution. It was a mere "address": only that and nothing more. And now that is withdrawn.

But what has this to do with Mr. Clark's movements? Well, some people have a singular, enigmatical way of setting forth their mental processes on paper. A little explanation is needed to enable the reader to put that and that together. In the present case, a brief narration will best explain things.

Shortly after the death of the late Mr. Wagner, an effort was made to form a joint stock company to carry on the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, and a circular was sent round to a number of leading bee-keepers to that effect. It was part of the plan as stated in the circular, to remove the JOURNAL to Chicago. Mr. King got wind of this and proceeded in hot haste to forestall the movement by producing a beautiful specimen number of the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine*, hailing from Chicago. This naturally threw cold water on the project, and led to hesitancy and delay. We were in Chicago last October, and called at the "office," so called, of the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine*. A glance round revealed the true state of things. It was a mere local agency of the New York journal. We felt that so palpable a farce need not hinder the contemplated removal of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. Correspondence and negotiations were entered into, the result of which was an arrangement by virtue of which the JOURNAL was removed bodily to Chicago in January. Without seeking or planning on our part, it so came about, by a sort of poetic justice, or providential retribution, that on maturing arrangements for the permanent publication of this journal, we became joint occupants with the Norwood Printing Company of the very premises, 25 West Lake street, at which Mr. King's sham shingle had been displayed for some months previously. Well might the removal of the A. B. J. to 25 West Lake st. be a bitter pill for Mr. King under the circumstances. But if he had not made queer, awkward wry faces over swallowing it in the June number of his paper, we would have spared his feelings this little narration. The simple truth is, that a mean attempt on his part to head

off the friends of the A. B. J. in their efforts to put it on a good, strong, prosperous footing, has proved a mortifying failure, and hence the contemptible and misleading notice in reference to ourselves.

The paragraph in question seems to require a little further personal explanation. We spent the first four months of the present year in Chicago, at downright hard work to establish the A. B. J. in its new position. Other interests and duties then required attention, and everything connected with the journal being in working order, we obtained the services of a competent assistant in the office, a thoroughly qualified bee-keeper, able to manage publication matters as well if not better than ourselves. We pull the editorial oar as at the first, but to do this it is not necessary to be constantly in the office. Having an apiary and other more important interests at Guelph, and it being a cool, delightful place, we suppose we can spend the summer months there if we choose, without asking Mr. King's permission, and if he will be so *very obliging* as to address his exchange with us to that post office, we shall be able to pay our respects to any queer, ugly editorial paragraphs he may get off concerning us, more promptly than we have done in the present instance.

If the object of such paragraphs is to convey the impression that the A. B. J. is an uncertain, ricketty institution liable to be annexed to Canada, or to vanish from Chicago as the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine* has done, we beg to assure Mr. King that he is not likely to enjoy the satisfaction of witnessing any such catastrophe. Twelve of the best bee-keepers on this continent are responsibly behind it, and we fancy that the interest manifested in it at Indianapolis last December and the hearty manner in which its friends are rallying round it in its new western home, are pretty sure indications that it will both "go on and prosper."

[For the American Bee Journal]
Chips from Sweet Home.

About 500 hives, in a range of five miles, were kept here last season, about 15 of them surviving. I had 55 last fall, and all apparently in good condition, but this spring my chips were very dry, as all my bees had quit keeping house. However, I went to G. B. Long's, Hopkinsville, Ky., and brought back 96 hives, so that I am now stocked up again.

D. D. PALMER.
New Boston, Illinois.

combs. I use boxes, and my bees stored over 6,000 pounds of honey in them this season, which is all sold. I now have 181 perfect colonies, 92 of which have made their own combs; each card can be turned end for end, and the hive closed up.

T. F. BINGHAM.

Allegan, Mich., Sept. 22, 1878.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Chips from Sweet Home.

As we receive the JOURNAL and read its contents, we mark with a blue lead-pencil all new ideas. I take three bee journals. "Novice's" gleanings are pretty thoroughly marked. This has been a poor honey season in this locality. Owing to the drouth white clover failed; then, just as the Linn came in bloom it turned cold and wet, and continued so till Linn honey was gone. Since July 7 we have had no rain, but one shower, up to the present writing, (September 11), over two months; this last drouth has cut short our fall pasturage which usually continues till frost.

RAISING QUEENS.

We, as usual, have been experimenting, and think we too have learned some things and will try to help, whether we do or not. When examining our hives we find which has the most good qualities. As for color of queen we care but little, but we wish her to be *pure*, prolific and peaceable. We make a new colony, giving the queen and a sufficient number of bees to it, which we leave in the place of the old one; this plan is the nearest to natural swarming. The old stand we move to a new location, being careful not to rob the parent hive of too many bees, as they have all the brood to keep warm and nurse. We never divide, unless strong enough to make two. On the ninth day we cut out all queen cells but one. A pen-knife is the best for this purpose; be careful to not chill or sun-burn them. When two or more are so closely connected that there is not space to cut between, we put such clusters in one edge of the nursery, and by close watching we usually get the first out before she has time to kill the others. "Novice," in his *Gleanings*, says that cutting in a cell does not affect the young queen if she be developed sufficiently. A Langstroth frame will make thirty-two cages by cutting the horizontal pieces thin and full length, the upright pieces $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. Linn is the best as it does not split easy. Cover one side with wire cloth, and on the opposite put tin doors, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 2 inches; fasten with small wire staples, driving them in two doors at once, which economizes the room; punch small holes for them; to fasten down take a piece of wire, bend at right angles and drive in. The cells can be pinned in the cages, also a small piece

of sponge saturated with honey. We formerly thought it best to not introduce a queen till she was three or four days old, as it kept the hive a less length of time without a laying queen; but we now, for *safety*, introduce them as *young as possible*, and have much better success. We think it unnecessary in such cases to daub with honey, royal jelly or other scents. We kept a laying queen in the hive with the nursery, but found too many dead queens. Since then we made a hive on purpose, by putting in two thin division-boards, so as to have room on each side for two frames; these we can use for fertilizing, and find it well to keep in reserve laying queens. One of these has an entrance behind, the other at the side; the centre has room for the nursery and four frames, and the entrance at the front. In this we raise queen cells, by giving them cards from our *best* hive, and in scarcity of honey a lot of choice drones; being queenless they will not destroy them. We are trying to winter reserve queens in these nuclei. Next year we think of trying our nursery, laid on top of the frames, as per Novice. A few days after introducing a queen we look for her and make a note in our bee-register, "saw queen," "laying," "missing," as the case may be; if the latter we give them a card of brood from a choice queen, and if the young queen is gone they will let us know, when we next examine, by having choice queen cells for our nursery.

Mr. Editor, we think you done just right in rutting in Simeon Plicity's article on "Simplicity bees," etc.; for "a joke, now and then, is relished by the wisest men."

We hope Adam Grimm will tell us about his bee-feeder, smoker, getting bees out of boxes, introducing queens, etc.

W. J. Ronald's article on wintering bees is just such as we have found, by general inquiry, to be a preventative of that dreaded bee-disease. His second requirement, "The bees should be put into winter quarters *early*, or on the first cold day," is one which has saved many bees that we know of.

We keep our bee journals bound, so as to have them for ready reference, and find them as valuable as any bee-books.

SAMSON'S LION.

The Editor has rightly concluded, that the skull was too small, but gives "a better explanation," which is as unlikely as R. M. Argos explanation. "In a secluded spot among the grapevines," would be a poor, damp place "to deprive the bones and skin of their moisture by the heat of the sun," before decomposition would set in. Judges 14:8: "There was a swarm of bees and honey in the *carcass* of the lion." Webster defines carcass: The *dead body* of an animal; a corpse. Now if all the flesh and entrails were gone the *dead body* would not be there. Why should we try to believe Samson's

lion story; water coming out of a dry jaw-bone, any sooner than we would the stories of Mahomed cutting the moon in two, or that a stream of water came from between his fingers?

We are now getting our bees ready to try another winter; shall follow out W. J. Ronald's directions.

D. D. PALMER.

Eliza, Mercer Co., Ill., Sept. 11, 1873.

[For the American Bee Journal.]
Adair. (Reply to)

Our friend, Mr. Adair, in reply to our answer on the importation of bees, says that his ill-chosen term, "indiscriminate," applies only to large importations. Why large importations of bees would be more indiscriminate than small ones, I am unable to comprehend.

The queens imported into this country were at first mostly from Germany; then from Switzerland; then from Syrol and Italy. As the importers knew neither the bees nor the breeders, it seems to me that these small importations were more "indiscriminate" than a large one from the best known districts of Italy.

Mr. Adair says that he is not yet ready to discuss the evils of in and in breeding on bees; let us wait until he is ready.

To prove that the importation of queens can be injurious, Mr. A. shows that it is through the importation of bees to America, that we have imported bee-moth and foul-brood. It is true that if we had never imported bees in this country, neither bee-moth nor foul-brood would have made their appearance, since bees did not exist here before the discovery of America.

The denunciation of the ravages of the bee-moth, is of no avail, since every true bee-keeper knows that it has never "killed" a colony of bees. As to foul-brood, the European apiarians claim that this disease was introduced in their apiaries by Cuba honey given as food to the bees.

Mr. A. insinuates that perhaps what is called the bee-cholera of the past two years (if such a thing exists,) came from the importation of Italian bees.

He knows, however, as well as I do, that such a disease has never existed in Europe. How is it possible to bring a disease from a country where it has never existed.

He speaks at length on the awful misfortune of importing from Europe such insects as melve, braula ceeca, phora incrassata, sitaris, &c., &c., &c.; but the truth is that these parasites are very rare in Europe, and that not even the two most dreadful of these "braula ceeca and melve" have ever been known to destroy a single stock; furthermore, it is questionable whether they have ever killed a single bee.—Much ado about nothing.

Some bee-keepers may think that I am grinding my ax. But my ax is sharp and does not

need grinding. Every year I have more orders for bees than I can fill, and I have to refuse orders for imported queens and often to refund the money. Besides we, (my son and myself) have never asked one cent for the publication of our old or "new" ideas. For instance every year we have sent Mr. Adair some articles for his Annals, and we have never taken advantage of his offer to insert our advertisements in his pamphlet. The past month, Mr. Adair wrote to my son asking him for two articles, for the Annals of 1873, adding that one might be—"on the Italian bee, if you desire"—and our ax needs so little grinding that we did not improve the opportunity, and my son announced to Mr. Adair that he would send him two articles entitled: "Bee Culture in 1976," and "Historical notice on Bee Culture in France."

Friend Novice will see, by the above, that if we are in a combat, aga'inst Mr. Adair, on the stage, we are still friends behind the curtain.

Mr. Adair had the right to criticise our importations, as well as we had the right to show that his ideas on Italian bees are different from what they were two or three years ago when he advertised Italian bees for sale. He has reported a gossip on our business, we have reported one on his: we are quit.

CH. DADANT,

Hamilton Ill. Sept. 10, 1873.

[For the American Bee Journal.]
Sending Queens by Mail.

In sending queens by mail, I find that a piece of candy and a piece of sponge, moistened with water, answer as well as honey. I prefer the large, round, flat mottoes, as they are easily fastened in the boxes, so that they cannot move about and hurt the queens. I have sent a number of queens in this way, and have not lost a single one. I have kept bees for weeks on candy, in the cellar in the winter, and they done well on it; and I can see no reason why they should not do equally as well on it while passing through the mails. JAMES BOLIN.

West Lodi, Ohio,

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Honey Markets.

CHICAGO.

Choice white comb honey, 28@30c; fair to good, 24@28c.

Extracted, choice white, 14@16c; fair to good, 10@12c. Strained, 8@10c.

CALIFORNIA.

Quotations from Stearns & Smith, 423 Front street, between Washington and Clay, San Francisco, Cal.:

Strained, choice orange blossom honey, from Los Angelos, in 5-gallon cans, 15@16c.

Valley honey, gathered from manna or honey dew, 12@14c.

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